In addition to the Minimum Support Price for major crops for providing price support to the farmers, the Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the request of a State/UT Government for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities generally perishable in nature and not covered under Minimum Support Price Scheme. Further, crop insurance is also provided to the farmers. The National Agriculture Insurance Scheme is available to all the farmers irrespective of the size of their holding. It envisages coverage of all the food crops, oilseeds and commercial/horticulture crops.

Drought in Vidarbha

†3656. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any plan to the Central Government to tackle the situation of acute drought in Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to solve the problem of drought there; and

(c) the long term policy being formulated by Government to deal with such situation of frequent droughts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The primary responsibility for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought is that of the State Governments concerned. This year, no intimation regarding drought nor any request for Central assistance for drought relief has so far been received from the Government of Maharashtra, including Vidarbha region.

Package for second green revolution

3657. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the 7 point package for Second Green Revolution that was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister recently at Hyderabad;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any reference has been made to promote integrated rural development to bridge the rural-urban divide;

(c) whether the package included five components suggested by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan of National Commission on Farmers for Agricultural Renewal; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for improving rural infrastructure and regulation of farm markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Epidemiological study on bird flu

3658. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any epidemiological study and surveillance has been undertaken by Government to find out whether the outbreak of bird flu was triggered by the migratory birds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is possibility of the virus striking during the winter seasons again; and

(d) if so, what preventive measures Government propose to take in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) A committee has been constituted by Government of India by order dated 22nd February, 2006 to determine the possible source of infection of the outbreak of Avian Influenza in poultry in Nandurbar District of Maharashtra under the Chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW).